

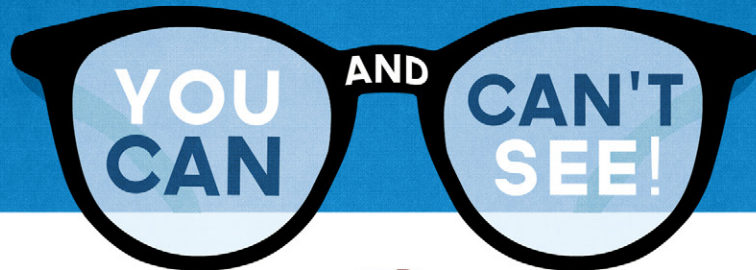
Early Language & Literacy for All (ELLA)



CLEVELAND
Hearing & Speech
CENTER

MONTHS
4 to 6

BABY IS GROWING IN WAYS



HEARING & UNDERSTANDING

- Moves eyes in direction of sounds.
- Notices toys that make sounds.
- Pays attention to music.
- Responds to changes in tone of your voice.



TALKING

- Coos and babbles when playing alone or with you.
- Makes speech-like babbling sounds, like *pa*, *ba*, and *mi*.
- Giggles and laughs.
- Makes sounds when happy or upset.

TALK! LISTEN! RESPOND!

How can you help your baby learn?

Talk, talk, and then talk some more. Talk about what you are doing and what your baby is doing. Your baby will learn to associate the words you say with the actions, objects, and feelings you describe.

Listen and show your excitement when your baby vocalizes, imitates sounds or mouth movements, or uses new sounds.

Respond to your child's efforts to communicate — even if it's just crying or vocalizing. Follow your child's lead and talk about objects, people, and activities that have captured her attention.



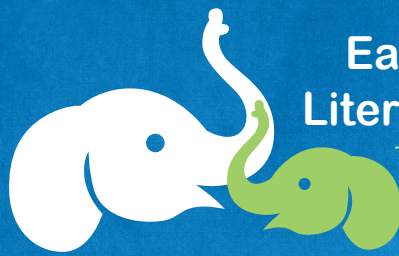
Name the objects all around you. This sets the stage for your baby to learn the meaning of words.

Imitate your baby's vocalizations and gestures. When he smiles or coos, smile and coo back.

Sing songs and recite nursery rhymes. Vary the pitch and loudness of your voice.

Call attention to sounds all around you. Encourage your baby to look with her eyes in the direction of sounds.





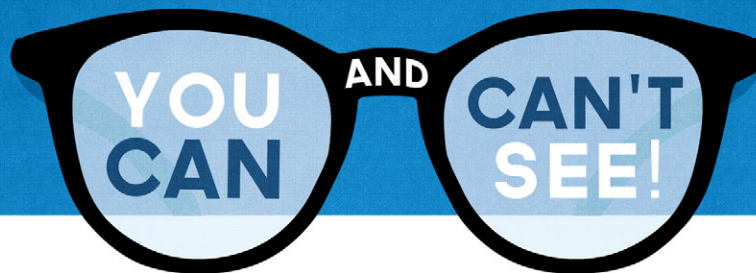
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That's why... reading aloud is so important!

What's that? Baby is learning to focus and is gaining interest in the world around him.

That's why... It's a great idea to choose books with bright colors, different textures, and photos. A book's colors, its feel, and its images will all fascinate your baby.

Read and Repeat. Babies love routines and familiarity.

That's why... Reading aloud at the same time every day — even in the same room or rocking chair — is a terrific idea. Baby will learn to connect the reading routine with comfort and bedtime or naptime.



Happy? Sad? Babies are tuned in to the sound of your voice and pick up on emotions.

That's why... Reading with expression is so important! You have a chance to engage your baby with your face and your voice as you read aloud. It's a great idea to choose books with emotions, repetition, rhyme, and rhythm.

DID YOU KNOW...

- The **American Academy of Pediatrics** recommends reading aloud with your child every day, right from birth.
- Your baby's brain is making literally trillions of connections during the first few years of life, the fastest it will ever grow.
- Babies learn best through interactions. There is no substitute for **you**.
- Reading 15 minutes every day for five years adds up to **27,375 minutes** of language-rich learning and bonding with your child. **Start today!**

